

Article 35

CPC: Appropriate for Playground Improvements (Phase One)

Park and Recreation Commission

\$350,000

Background

The Town of Needham has playgrounds located at 15 sites, with schools often having two structures for different age groups. The Park and Recreation Department provides maintenance to the playgrounds. The oldest playground equipment was installed in 1994, and the Mitchell School replaced their playground in Fall 2018. The Williams School will have the newest playground when it opens in September 2019.

The majority of the playgrounds have been built due to generous donations from the community. Funds have been raised by the individual school PTC's and school organizations, Parent Talk, Exchange Club, and Women's Club, as well as some neighborhood groups and donations from local businesses. Several playgrounds, in recent years, have been a creative and financial collaboration between the Town and organizations, with the Greene's Field Playground being the most recent example. The Williams School and Mitchell School have been town-funded.

Quality commercial playground equipment can be expected to last 40 +/- years, with regular maintenance. The structures can be updated with new features during their lifespan, as was done in 2011 at the Hillside School when the parents raised funds for new components.

Project

The purpose of this project is to make upgrades to the playgrounds, enhancing their use for children of all abilities, including those in wheelchairs or with other mobility challenges. All playgrounds, when installed, met or exceeded the code requirements for accessible playground equipment. This project will help bring all playgrounds additional options, as well as improve safety.

Page Two lists the playground sites. The color code from the chart is as follows:

- ♦ **BLUE** = ADA playground swing installation
- ♦ **YELLOW** = Addition of Poured-in-Place rubber surfacing on pathways, and under high use areas (slides, swings)
- ♦ **ORANGE** = the Park and Recreation Commission's two top priorities for renovations and/or replacement of equipment. These will be in design phase and will not require design funding.
- ♦ **WHITE** = project scope will be developed for Phase Two, which will be a separate funding request

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SITE	YEAR	NOTES
Broadmeadow School	2002	Add Poured-in-Place pathways
Claxton	1994 & 2007	Add Poured-in-Place pathways
Cricket	2005	Add ADA swing unit with Poured-in-Place pathway
DeFazio	1994, 1997, 1999	Begin review of renovation/replacement
Eliot	2004	Add Poured-in-Place pathways
Greene's	2003	Add ADA swing; Add ADA wheelchair swing; Add Poured-in-Place pathways to swings
Hillside	1995 & 2011	Add Poured-in-Place pathways; Add toddler features
Mills	2007	Add Poured-in-Place pathways
Mitchell	2018	New
Newman	2012	Recommend adding shade
Newman: Pre-School	1998 & 2004	School will be adding shade (Article 37)
Rebecca Perry	2001	Begin review of renovation/replacement
Riverside	2004 & 2007	Add Poured-in-Place pathways
Walker-Gordon	2013	Add Poured-in-Place pathways
Williams	2019	New

Why Poured-in-Place Pathways?

The MA Architectural Access Board is updating their regulations for ADA pathways on playgrounds and will be requiring this upgrade. The poured-in-place rubber surface allows those with mobility issues or in wheelchairs to reach all areas of play on a solid surface, and it also has a cushioning impact if a child falls on the pathway. The manufactured wood fiber surface can remain in outer fall zones. This hybrid of poured-in-place rubber and manufactured wood fiber decreases the heat level from the surface, and is a less expensive option than a full poured-in-place rubber surface. The rubber is typically a cleaned recycled material.

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ADA Swings

Greene's Field—Project # 1: (a) install 2 toddler swings in front of playground, with poured-in-place pathways; (b) add ADA bucket swing with harness, and poured-in-place pathways to swing area

Cricket Field: add a single swing unit with ADA bucket swing with harness, and poured-in-place pathway to swing unit

Other Playgrounds: replace current ADA swing with ADA bucket swing with harness



Greene's Field—Project # 2: Add a roll-on swing unit in the front section at Greene's Field, with a poured-in-place pathway to the unit.

These projects, combined, are estimated to cost about \$100,000 with the majority of the funding going towards the surfacing and installation.



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Poured-in-Place Rubber Pathways



The photos, above, are at Greene's Field and show the hybrid surfacing, with poured-in-place rubber pathways adjacent to manufactured wood fiber surfacing. *Photos by Alison Borrelli from the Grand Opening.*

The estimated cost per square foot is \$30-40, which includes the crushed stone base, the poured-in-place rubber surfacing and the installation. Each park will require different square footage which will be determined during the design phase. There is no cost for the design phase.

The playgrounds at Mitchell School, Newman School, the Pre-School at Newman, the new Williams School, and Greene's Field meet the requirements for ADA surfacing.

The four top priorities for adding the poured-in-place pathways are Eliot School, Broadmeadow School, Claxton Field and Mills Field.

These projects, combined, are estimated to cost about \$250,000.